



Ben's Pen

Winter Edition, Volume 7, Issue 1

A Publication by Benjamin Franklin Middle School Students

Fun Fest Makes for a Fun Day

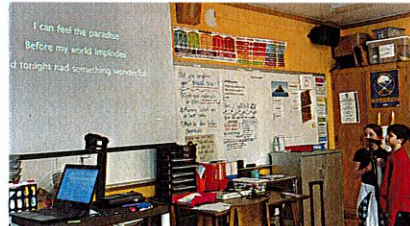
On December 20, 2024, Franklin Middle students participated in school-wide Fun Fest activities. The staff at Franklin Middle organized various winter-themed and engaging activities for the students. Here are some descriptions of students' personal experiences on that day:

from Lillian Cardus, Grade 5: My first activity was Blooket/Kahoot and we did a game about Christmas history and themes. The next thing I did was watch *Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas*. Then I had lunch. Next, it was fun with magic, and we learned how to do some magic tricks and the teacher gave us all a coin to practice magic. Then I had a crafts session. There were a lot of craft supplies, such as colored, googly eyes and wooden characters that you can draw on. It was fun, because the teacher let us create whatever we wanted with the craft supplies.

from Sanya Das, Grade 7: For the Fun Fest, I got the passport I wanted most. Here is what was on my passport: First, I had a game called "Apples to Apples." It is kind of like the "What Do You Meme?" card game. Basically, you have to have five cards at the start of each round. A person will get to be the judge, get a card, and choose one of the categories shown on it. On each of your five cards, there will be some random item. You have to choose the best card that matches the category and please the judge. If you know about the judge, all the better. I am so glad I got people I knew in my group. Our game resulted in a three-way tie, with me being one of the winners. Next up was another card game called "Spit." In a few words, it is a very competitive game that takes skill and speed. You can be in teams or solo. My team won, even if the other team did not believe it. The next one is the one I was waiting for: Holiday Baking! I chose this one, because I like baking and Rice Krispies. The homemade "Rice Krispies Treats" were really good, so I took them home. The last activity of the day was pickleball in the gym. I tried to do 2v2 (2 players vs. 2 players on another team) but ended up losing all the time, so I just did 1v1 (1 player vs. 1 opponent) for the rest of the time instead. I did not know I was going to be that sweaty. But, anyway, that is my Fun Fest summed up!

from Sonya Das, Grade 5: For my first activity, I watched *Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas* for the holiday movie activity. Next, I did a music trivia about songs with Blooket. Then, I had lunch. Then, I did a "Surprise Animal Drawing" where you fold a piece of paper and draw a cute animal, and once you open the paper up, you make the animal scary. Then, I played "Smash Karts," a competitive game about destroying karts to win. There are other game modes like "Capture the Flag" or "Gem Collector." You can also decorate your kart! So, this is what I did as a fifth-grader on Fun Day!

(continued on page 4)



Spirit Week

Monday, December 16 - Ugly Sweater Day by Fox Honan

A tradition known as Ugly Sweater Day celebrates the fun and creative expression of wearing “ugly” sweaters. This American tradition began in the 1960s and 1970s when hand-knit sweaters were a common choice for participants. Typically, Ugly Sweater Day takes place in December, often a week before the holiday break. This year, the official Ugly Sweater Day is December 20, although many people in our school showed their “ugly pride” early by wearing their favorite sweaters on Monday, December 16. Here are some of the seasonal sweaters people wore!



Tuesday, December 17 - Sparkles Day by Lillian Cardus

Sparkles are a big part of the fashion trends in 2024. They are mostly used to have a little bit of sparkle on what you are wearing. People have been attracted to items that sparkle for years; around 5,000 years ago, beetles were crushed to make makeup that had glitter in it. I found this from the website [superstem.scholastic.com](https://www.superstem.scholastic.com). Below are some pictures of people who wore sparkles at our school. Some people wore sparkly necklaces, and some people wore sparkly stickers. Our school concert happened on the sparkle day so many people wore either a music shirt or a sparkly shirt.



Wednesday, December 18 - Grinch Day by George Kingston

Grinch Day is just to show how much love people have for the movies and books about the Grinch. An impressive amount of people love the Grinch and almost everything about it. Every year, more and more people wear clothes with the Grinch on it. If you would like to find out some fun facts about the Grinch, check out this website: <https://www.beano.com/facts/film-and-tv/the-grinch-facts-2>. From this website, I learned that the story of the Grinch is 67 years old, and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss was first published in 1957.



Thursday, December 19 - Pajama Day by Erica Khanal

Pajama day is a very popular event that happens, but, when was the first time it started? It actually started on April 16, 2004, for the first National Wear Your Pajamas to Work Day (<https://nationaltoday.com/national-pajama-day/>). Pajamas are very comfy and spectacular; sometimes there are pajama days at school, and sometimes even at work! There are many unique, pretty, stunning pajamas! Here are pictures of students wearing pajamas at our school.



Friday, December 20 - Accessory Day by Pearl Karki

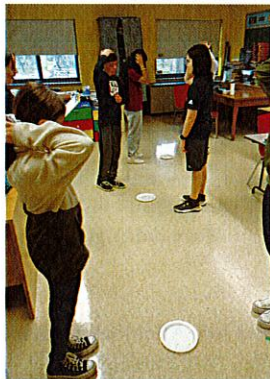
Accessories are essential, decorative items that you can wear with confidence. They come in various colors and styles, adding joy, pop, and flair to any outfit! There could be many different designs and more. People wear accessories every day too. Accessories were made in Egypt in ancient times (<https://csa-living.org/oasis-blog/ancient-egyptian-jewels>). You can see stunning accessories from our school below!



The November Franklin Freeze

by George Kingston

November's Franklin Freeze was full of excitement and competition with the plate game, and the focus on how to act correctly in the halls and stairs. One way to maintain safety in the halls and stairs is by not doing horseplay such as bumping other people or riding down the rails on the stairs. The plate game was fun and hopefully perked you up.



Students followed movement directions as they waited for the word "plate" to be announced.



As soon as the word "plate" was announced, students competed to see who will be the first person to seize the plate.

Movie Reviews



The Wild Robot reviewed by George Kingston

The Wild Robot is a movie about forgiving and kindness. The animation of *Wild Robot* is insanely good, and this movie was the adaptation of the book by Peter Brown. The wild robot was on a ship, but then the wild robot was washed ashore after a typhoon, and out of four robots that crashed into the island, the wild robot was the only one to survive . . .

Wicked reviewed by Lillian Cardus

Wicked was released in 2024. It is a prequel to *The Wizard of Oz*. It starts with the Wicked Witch of the West dead, and then someone asked a witch named Glinda if she was friends with the Wicked Witch of the West. Then Glinda flashbacks to when she arrived at school. If you like singing and dancing, then you will love this movie! Overall, the movie is very long. I would give the movie a score of 8 out of 10.

Elemental reviewed by Erica Khanal

Elemental is a really great movie. It is super fun to watch. It is about different people, one type is fire, another one is water, and the other is nature, and there are cloud people. It is so funny and super interesting. If you like twist and turns, then I would really recommend it. In my opinion, I would give it a 9 out of 10.

Inside Out 2 reviewed by Pearl Karki

I watched *Inside Out 2* a few weeks ago, and it was fantastic. The movie featured beautifully vibrant colors that caught my eye. I love how it conveys an important lesson about being unable to control other people's lives and the consequences of their bad decisions. In my opinion, the movie is a 9 out of 10. It entertained me for over an hour! I highly recommend it to anyone who enjoys colorful visuals and emotional storytelling.

Fun Fest, (continued from page 1)

from Theodore Rebl, Grade 6: "We started with Legos. Then I went to card games, and then a holiday movie. Next, I went to lunch, and after lunch came my favorite event, Pictionary. During Pictionary, we drew a card and had to draw it on a whiteboard; our team had to guess correctly and we would get a point. If we didn't guess correctly the other teams would get a chance to guess. Whoever had the most points won."

from Fox Honan, Grade 6: "I liked it, We started with Pickleball, which was fun. After that, we went to holiday games with games including "Holiday Can Jam," and "Marshmallow Get." To play "Marshmallow Get," you put cups on your hands and have marshmallows on a table with paper bags taped to the edge of the table. The object of the game is to scoop the most marshmallows and then count them up to see who won. Then at lunch, we had our food, and went straight to holiday Pictionary. (See the rules above explained by sixth grader Theo Rebl.) Then we went home."

Acrostic Poems

Corn by George Kingston

Corn
Original to the Three Sisters
Rod
Native American culture



Stars by Erica Khanal

Stars
Terrific
Amazing
Really awesome
Super



My Neighbor's Cat by Sonya Das

Majestic fur
Ultimate, sharp nails
Lovely paws
Adventurous
Nice tail



Sharks by Miriam Alkinani

Silly
Have sharp teeth
Apex predator (some)
Really fast
Keen
Scary



My Dog by Katie Zhang

Happy
Unique
Adorable
Intelligent



Niagara Falls by Pearl Karki

Natural
Icicles
American Falls
Gigantic
Awesome
Rainbow
Absolutely stunning



FMS by Fox Honan

Fearless
Magnificent
Sincere



Flawless
Amazing
Lovely
Large
Super pretty

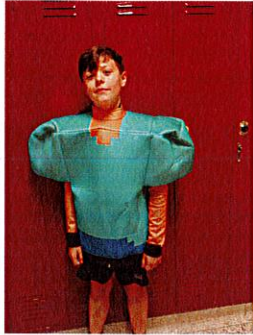
Note: Names of certain pets, such as, Mulan (a cat), and Huai (a dog) can be found by reading the first letter in the line of the corresponding poems.

Pigs by Lillian Cardus

Pasture is where some pigs can be on a farm.
Iberian is a breed of pig.
Grass is what they eat.
Sloppy mud is what they play in.



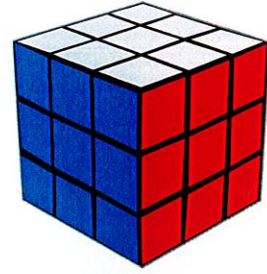
Halloween Costume Day
October 31, 2024



The Rubik's Cube

by Ephraim Bush

I got my first cube when I was in fifth grade. I tried to solve the Rubik's Cube and I could not solve it whatsoever. Then I decided to look up a video on how to solve it. At first, I still could not solve it and I gave up, but then I came to it again and I looked up that same video and tried again, and then for the first time ever, I solved it. Then, I made a cheat sheet and started to memorize how to solve the cube and eventually I was able to solve it by memory. Next, I started to look up more videos to solve it faster, and I memorized them as well. I looked up Rubik's cube games online and I found some websites to that had Rubik's Cubes to solve, and I found one website that I highly recommend. The website is called grubiks.com and there are many different kinds of cubes on this website. I tried, and played with each cube on the website, and I can solve not all the cubes on this website but some of the cubes I can solve. It is very fun and easy when you learn to solve the Rubik's Cube, and now I can solve other big and small cubes as well. Although this website does not teach you how to solve the Rubik's Cube, it is still fun to play around with, and to try to solve the Rubik's Cube by yourself without a video.



Holiday Movie-Themed Door Decorating Contest

by George Kingston

Our school had a holiday door decorating contest in December. Lots of classrooms participated, and each door had to represent a movie. The first place winner was Mr. Minorczyk's homeroom. Mr. Minorczyk explained that the door was focused on things that the Grinch would not like about school. It was based around the 12 days of Christmas from the Grinch's point of view, so it was called the 12 days of Grichmas. The second place winner was Mrs. Greiner's homeroom. Mrs. Greiner stated that many students came up with the concept of symbols from both *Home Alone* movies and drew them. They showed their creative and artistic talents. For third place, there was a three way tie, because of the specific criteria that the judges used. For Mrs. Balk's door, students chose their own movies, but the most common choices were *The Grinch*, *Elf*, *A Christmas Story*, and *Frozen*. Minions and Snoopy were also on the door, Mrs. Stearns and Mrs. Renaud's door was based on the movie *Home Alone 2*. It was interesting to see pictures of some FMS students on the door. Mrs. Gilsey and Ms. Martinez had *Elf* as the theme for their door. Messiah Stallworth drew the large elf on the door and several others drew different scenes from the movie. They put students' pictures in the scenes from the movie on their door. All in all, it was probably VERY, VERY hard for the judges to decide the winners.



Mr. Minorczyk's door



Mrs. Greiner's door



Mrs. Gilsey's and
Ms. Martinez's door



Mrs. Stearns's and
Mrs. Renaud's door



Miss Balk's door

Advice from the Falcon Friend

Dear Falcon Friend,

I often lose my homework, even when I do the assignment. How can I be more organized?

Yours truly,

Anonymous



Dear Anonymous,

Don't worry, I know a lot of people who always lose their homework. Here is what to do: track all your homework and assignments down in a notebook, journal, or a planner. That way, you know what assignments are missing and when they are due. If you already have lost the homework, try to communicate with a friend to find out what questions were on the homework. Or even contact the teacher for an extra copy on paper or online. Now, you can complete the homework to turn it in. Here is the most crucial step: once you receive or finish your homework, put it immediately away in a folder, binder, or anything else that can securely hold papers. Make sure to neatly arrange them so you know which assignments are most important or due next. What if you lose your folder? Just put your name on it so in case if anybody finds it, they know who to return it to, and make sure that you have it with you at all times. In case you are not sure when or what assignments you need to finish, check on Canvas where there is a to-do list on the side for the assignments you have not completed yet. These tips will help you be more organized and make sure you turn in your assignments.

Good Luck,

The Falcon Friend

Future Ready Event on January 30 at Kenmore Junior Senior High School

by Mrs. Zummo

Are you interested in technology? Then you might like to attend the January 30 Future Ready Event from 4:00 to 5:00 at Kenmore Junior Senior High School. A group of teachers from across the district will showcase their students' work. Last year, I saw some very interesting displays shared by other teachers at this event. For this year's event, some of my students made math videos using the BrainPOP make-a-movie feature. Also, did you know that you can record your voice on a Google Slides presentation? Some of my students did that as well. Some of my students explored symmetry concepts using the 3+Doodler pens, which will also be on display at the event. If you think you would like more information about this event, just send me an email. I can also send an electronic invite to students who may be interested in attending.



Coming soon: The Wizard of Oz

January 30th and 31st at 7:00

February 1st at 2:00